

Statement of John Arriola

July 14, 2011

Mr. Leighton Bush has been a part-time employee of my office since I was first elected in 2006. Mr. Bush assists me on a wide variety of tasks and is paid for 20 hours per week at a rate of \$12.02 per hour. His gross pay every two weeks is \$481.04. His net pay, after the deduction of his share of his health benefits, is \$260.31. Mr. Bush has a Metro email address that he does not utilize. The clerk's office does not reimburse him for his meals, mileage or cell phone.

Mr. Williams has questioned why Mr. Bush does not submit a time sheet and why he does not use his electronic access card to record his entry at our main or satellite offices. He also questions how Mr. Bush could be working 20 hours per week for the clerk's office while also working at two businesses he co-owns, an insurance agency in Williamson County and a small car dealership in Wilson County.

I have never asked Mr. Bush to record his hours. He works at my direction and is available to me seven days per week to attend to official tasks. Mr. Bush has a wide portfolio of responsibilities and represents the clerk's office at some governmental meetings as well as to a variety of organizations in the community including:

- Mr. Bush attends office staff meetings and often has meetings and phone conferences with me on management issues related to his areas of responsibility.
- Mr. Bush works out of our South Nashville office on Harding Place at the end of the month when we have a high volume of traffic in that office.
- Mr. Bush is also works with businesses that need additional support with issues related to my office as a troubleshooter. He was instrumental in working with the local business community when the state made a change in how they handle business tax license renewals for businesses in Davidson County.
- Mr. Bush is also a liaison between the clerk's office and automobile dealers in Davidson County. He attends auto auctions and assists the dealers with service issues when they do business with the clerk's office. Our offices process more than 72,000 transactions per year for auto dealers. These transactions generate more than \$6,000,000 in fees for the city and state.

Mr. Bush's work has been excellent. His part-time work at his insurance agency and managing his car dealership does not interfere with his work on behalf of my office.

As to the use of his security card, most of Mr. Bush's responsibilities are outside the office. I understand it is Mr. Bush's practice to enter the front door of the main office and our satellite offices without using his card to enter secured entrances.

Going forward, I have asked Mr. Bush to keep records of his hours worked and to submit a timesheet for payroll purposes. No matter how many hours he works he will still be capped at 20 hours per week. I was wrong not to have him keep records of his time worked in the past as it has created an appearance of impropriety where none existed.